

SECTION 4(c) HUNTER EDUCATION PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS

Hunter Education Program – Arizona:

How do you make a state like Arizona a safer place to hunt? For the Arizona Game and Fish Department that's an easy answer. You just take 1,000 enthusiastic volunteers, some dedicated staff and provide them support through the Wildlife Restoration Act and you have one of the nation's top Hunter Education Programs. Since 1955 over 200,000 students have graduated from this program. For the past decade, Arizona has averaged just one accident for every 375,000 hunter days in the field. That's one of the lowest figures in the country and makes hunting safer than any organized sport. The Arizona Hunter Education course provides over 20 hours of training in such areas as firearms safety, wildlife management, bowhunting and hunter responsibility. The class also includes a live fire exercise and a simulated hunting experience.

Hunter Education Program – Texas:

The goal of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department program is to increase hunters and shooters awareness of the needs to conserve, protect, and enhance wildlife resources through a comprehensive hunter education program. Approximately 30,000 students are certified annual in Texas. Volunteer instructors are recruited, trained and certified to maintain a teaching force of 250 managed by 25 area chiefs. At least 50 master instructors to ensure a high quality, volunteer driven educational program. Training techniques included live and simulated firing experiences. The effect of this program has been a reduction in hunting and shooting accidents and violations through the promotion of positive hunting and shooting behavior.

Lac qui Parle WMA Special Hunts – Minnesota:

Lac qui Parle WMA offers goose and deer hunting opportunities for hunters with physical disabilities. This WMA has five goose hunting blinds that are wheelchair accessible. The special deer hunt, conducted in mid-September, is nine days long and fourteen blinds are available.



These blinds were recently upgraded to better withstand the elements. In addition, a hydraulic lift blind was donated to Minnesota DNR by Paralyzed Veterans of America and is rotated to WMA units



conducting special hunts for handicapped hunters. During the special deer hunts at Lac qui Parle WMA, approximately 30 hunters participate, harvesting 7 - 10 deer per year on Rosemoen Island within the WMA refuge. In 2004, a participating hunter spotted several large bucks out of range towards nightfall. The following morning, the hunter negotiated his wheelchair over a ¼ mile stretch of gravel road without assistance to access his blind. After a long day in the blind, he again spotted a large buck and this time was able to make a shot. Harvesting this mature buck, estimated to weigh 230-240 pounds, provided a thrilling and unforgettable experience for this hunter. Photos courtesy of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources.

Hunter Education Program – Missouri:

The Missouri Hunter Education program, supported by Wildlife Restoration funding, is one of the largest in the country. On an annual basis Missouri certifies between 28-32 thousand students. A cadre of Hunter Education Instructor volunteers numbers approximately 2000 volunteers. Missouri continues to meet the demand for offering multiple certification courses in every county in the State. As a result, the rate of hunting incidents remains relatively low. The Missouri Range Program leads the nation in number of unmanned ranged as well as Range and Outdoor Education Centers. The range participation continues to rise annually. Approximately 10% increase in range



users are being seen at these facilities. Program participation at the Outdoor Education Centers is up 67% over two years ago and looks to increase and additional 64% this year. To date Missouri Department of Conservation manages 79 manned and unmanned Ranges throughout the State. In addition, two new unmanned ranges are slated for completion this calendar year and major renovations on two manned facilities are on the schedule. Photo courtesy of Missouri Department of Conservation.

Hunter Education Program – Kentucky:

The Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources have 1,100 certified Hunter Education Instructors. Over 800 are volunteers. The Kentucky Hunter Education Program certifies more than 16,000 students per year in the classroom and on the shooting range. The 2005 Statewide Hunter Education Instructor Workshop had over 100 participants at Camp Robert Webb, during the three-day training. Photo courtesy of the Kentucky Department of Fish and Wildlife Resources.



Take One Make One Program – South Carolina:

The South Carolina Department Natural Resources (SCDNR) started their Take One Make One Program (TOMO) in 1999 to focus on reaching youth and young adults who have had little or no hunting or shooting experiences. Most of the students to date call SCDNR requesting information on how to hunt and shoot. Most students are from the Boy Scouts and Single Mom/Dad groups, etc. Picture courtesy of SCDNR.



Outdoor Heritage Education Trailer – South Carolina:

Another recruitment tool that SCDNR uses is the Outdoor Heritage Education Trailer, which houses a live-fire pellet gun range, a laser shot shooting simulator, and a fishing simulator. Here students complete 27 goals, ranging from handling a firearm safely to taking and passing the hunter education and boating education courses. When students complete these goals, they obtain incentives such as shirts, hunting gear, and other items. In 2004 and 2005, SCDNR had over 14,000 folks visit their education trailer with more than 180,000 pellets shot at the range trailer. SCDNR feels that this is very successful program and would not be able to continue without support from excise tax paying industries, hunters, and other outdoor enthusiasts. Picture courtesy of SCDNR.



Hunter Education Program – Connecticut:

The State of Connecticut in 2003 offered 166 courses in conservation education and firearms safety. More than 300 volunteer instructors contributed 13,554 hours toward this effort, which certified 2,418 students in basic firearms, 1,341 in bow hunting, and 111 in trapping. An additional 92 students completed an independent study and field course. Nearly 300 instructors participated in six workshops, and 34 new instructors were trained and certified.

Hunter Education Program – Delaware:

The Hunter Education program in Delaware in 2001 included 56 Basic Hunter Education courses taught by 181 volunteer instructors. Of the 1,780 students attending these courses, more than a thousand participated in live-fire exercises. Hunter education was incorporated into the curriculum at seven high schools in the state. And, at the Ommelanden Hunter Education Training Center operated by the Division of Fish and Wildlife in New Castle more than 400 students received shooting instruction at no charge that year. The Center provided nearly 43,000 rounds for trap, skeet, sporting clays, archery, rifle, or pistol practice.

Hunter Education Program – North Dakota:

Agency sponsored hunter education course field days and additional shooting events for youth and adults are funded using PR dollars. These activities include coordination with other government agencies as well as providing support and funding for NGO's. Examples include support and funding to the Missouri Valley Shooting Sports for annual youth pheasant hunts and help with disabled hunters in cooperation with local groups such as Twist of Fate as well as a large scale youth shooting event at the State Fair called Pathways to Hunting. These events enable participants and industry to benefit from the skills learned and enjoyed in hunter education courses. North Dakota provides instruction and beneficial experiences for 6,000 folks annually in its volunteer driven program. There are 700 instructors who are trained by the Department who instruct youth and adults in safe gun handling, wildlife identification, wildlife management principles and ethics. Recruiting these new hunters into the sports of shooting and hunting are the future for outdoor activities related to hunting, promoting the hunting heritage and benefiting the industries who sell sporting goods for these activities. Youth are the future and the reason this program focuses on these individuals who will be the teachers and leaders for decades to come. Photo courtesy of North Dakota Department of Fish and Game.



Indoor Shooting Range in Juneau, Alaska:

Juneau residents began using a new \$1.9 million indoor shooting range out of the wind, rain and snow of the temperate rain forest in early December 2004. The



Juneau Area Hunter Education Indoor Shooting Range features seven lanes for .22 caliber rifles and up to .45 caliber handguns, a classroom, and a large unfinished area that will be used for archery practice once funding is available. A Wildlife Restoration grant provided \$500,000, with matching and supplemental funds obtained from the State of Alaska, the City of Juneau, and the local chapter of

Territorial Sportsmen. This is the second indoor range funded by Wildlife Restoration funds in Alaska, which require expensive air filtering systems to reduce lead exposure.